



95th CIVIL AFFAIRS BRIGADE (AIRBORNE)

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
FORT BRAGG, NC 28310 / (910) 432-6005 / <http://www.soc.mil>

Col. Ferdinand Irizarry II

Commander

Assumed command on Aug. 17, 2006

Col. Ferdinand Irizarry II assumed command of the 95th Civil Affairs Brigade on Aug. 17, 2006.

He is a graduate of John Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md., where he earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology and Psychology in 1979. Upon graduation from John Hopkins University, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the infantry through the Reserve Officer Training Corps. He also holds a master's degree in Public Administration, from Golden Gate University, while stationed at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Col. Irizarry served with the 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division (Light), Maryland Army National Guard; the 2nd Armored Division (Forward); and the 197th Infantry Brigade (Separate) (Mechanized).

His military education includes the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Ranger Course, the Civil Affairs Officer Advanced Course, the Regional Studies Course, the Command and General Staff College and the British Commando Course.

Col. Irizarry has served in various command and staff positions throughout his career and is a qualified joint service officer. His civil affairs leadership positions include serving as the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion operations officer, executive officer and as chief of Civil Affairs/Civil Military Operations Doctrine and Training Division and the chief of U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, Special Operations Proponency Office. He also served as chief of the Commander's Initiative Group, and the NATO Stabilization Force special projects officer for the Office of the High Representative, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo Implementation Force.

Since 9/11, Irizarry has provided direct support to operations in the Philippines and reach-back support to units serving in the Philippines, Afghanistan, and Iraq. Prior to assuming command, he served as the G-3 for the U. S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Command.

Col. Irizarry's awards and decorations include four Defense Meritorious Service Medals, three Meritorious Service Medals, Joint Service Commendation Medal, two Army Commendation Medals, two Joint Service Achievement Medals, four Army Achievement Medals, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, four Army Superior Unit Awards, Expert Infantryman Badge, Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab, and Polish and Colombian Parachutist Badges.

He is married to the former Karen P. Tonge of Aberdeen, Md. They have two children, Tony and Julia.